

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1863.

LOCAL MATTERS.

J. Cox & Co., Publishers' Agents, Tribune Building, New York, Brown's Iron Building, Philadelphia, are authorized to contract for advertising in this paper.

Petroleum Fire at Petroleum Centre.

A fire broke out at ten o'clock Saturday morning, the 3d inst., at the Anderson well, McClintock farm, Petroleum Centre. It is said to have originated from a spark being struck from the ground while workmen were engaged in excavating the bed of a new oil tank. The gas was burning incessantly, an oil tank near by was wrapped in flames. This tank contained 300 barrels of oil, and two tubs were discharging oil into it at the time from two wells via the Anderson wells. The occupants of the engine houses had a narrow escape, a column of flame darting with lightning speed into the building as soon as the fire caught. Their clothes were burned, but they sustained no severe injuries. The engine houses and one derrick of both wells were entirely destroyed, and both engines ruined.

When the tank of the Anderson well burst, the oil ran down the ravine in a flood of fire, and communicated to well No. 2 destroying the engine, engine house, derrick, and tanks containing two hundred barrels of oil. No. 2 is about forty feet below the Anderson wells. The descending stream poured still further down the ravine, and in one moment of time, the new refinery of Timothy Collins, located about ten rods from Well No. 2 was afire, and was rapidly consumed, including three hundred barrels of refined oil. Mr. Collins' crude oil being trucked at a distance from the spot, escaped destruction.

From this point, the furious flames swept down to the base oil refinery, one hundred feet below the Collins refinery, burning up two tubs containing about fifty barrels of crude oil. At this stage of the progress of the fire there was imminent danger of the destruction of the town and considerable alarm was felt by the citizens of Petroleum Centre for the safety of their lives and property.

The people turned out in great numbers, and labored vigorously in cracking dams across the ravine, and finally after constructing six or seven successive embankments of stones and sand, the downward rush of the devouring flame, was arrested at a point within ten feet of Well No. 11, belonging to the Central Petroleum Company, where there were one thousand barrels of oil. The fire was thus subdued and held in check at two o'clock in the afternoon, after raging with uncontrollable violence for the period of four hours.

The Anderson wells belonging to Mr. Anderson, were on the lease of the Central Petroleum Company, and were pumping about thirty barrels a day. Well No. 2 is the property of the same Company, and was yielding about fifteen barrels a day.

The loss is estimated at \$10,000. The Central Petroleum Company, \$3,000, Mr. Collins, \$3,000. The little parties are believed to be insured.

The spectacle is described as fearfully magnificent, resembling the flambéation of hell.

A dense column of smoke rose a thousand feet in the air, and attracted attention for many miles around.

CUBAN JEWELRY. — The Peter Funkins of New York are sending circulars to private individuals all over the country, announcing that since the fall in gold, they have made large purchases in gold watches and jewelry at reduced rates and any person enclosing these five dollars by mail will receive in return as a gift, either a gold watch or some article of jewelry. But no returns are ever made by Funkin & Co., and as the returns are generally submitted to acknowledge their veracity, there is seldom any exposure. An arrest was made in New York, the other day, of one of these sharpers, and a large number of letters found on his person containing remittances from different parts of the country. The fellow was made to disgorge for the benefit of the police fund, and if any of his dupes can be induced to come forward and testify he will go to Blackwell's Island. The oil region is a favorite field of operations for these gentry, but no one goes seeking ordinary intelligence or penetration can be misled by their shallow artifices.

THE HOMESTEAD WELL. — This noble well, the property of the Botolph Oil Company, which has produced for the last three months about five hundred barrels per day, received its yield between half past eleven o'clock Tuesday night and six o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, the precise time being unknown. The Great well, being about thirty rods distant, was thought to be some that it had tapped the Homestead. But this opinion is not even dreams. The to and fro well had started up nearly a fortnight before this accident, and its increase had not stopped even upon the Homestead. Mr. Stevenson, the superintendant of the Great well informs us that he has no reason to believe that the stoppage of the Homestead has augmented the Great well's production.

It is attributed rather to the accumulation of paraffine in the chambers, &c. In drawing the lower valve, the gas and oil came freely, and the fact was disclosed that there was a well in existence of paraffine through the lower part of the tubing.

The Reed well and many others have stopped from this impediment, which being removed they have afforded their former yield. This Company have fifty acres in fee simple, upon which twelve wells are now going down, the Homestead being the first upon the tract.

COAL vs OIL. — A correspondent writes — It is a commonly received theory among geologists that the coal fields of the United States and Europe have originated from vast deposits of vegetable matter, thrown in peculiar positions, long ages ago. Now and then a philosopher undertakes to dispute this question. It has been asserted by many well versed in chemistry, that the earth was at one time not much by such a volume of carbonic gas as would have rendered it unfit for any form of animal life. Hence, by a wise provision of the Creator, huge forests grew up and absorbed this property of the atmosphere. It was during this period that coal formation took place, and by laws best understood by Him who made them that which would have prevented human life from existing was finally made in nature's great laboratory to minister to its support. The absorption of this gas has undoubtedly had much to do with the formation of oil, as well as coal, and it is undoubtably owing to this fact that Pennsylvania abounds in the one as well as the other. The peculiar construction of the rocks will always have more or less to do with all oil theories, for the water flow of all fields is governed by the fissures in the geological department where they abound — Nature divides and filters at different depths, and it is no easier how her agents she has chemical laws to go by, which are more the less true because they are near the surface or deep down in her lonely depths.

A GRAND MILITARY PARADE AND REVIEW took place at Maccusca, three miles from Titusville, N.Y., on the 23rd and 26th of August, under the auspices of Brig. Gen'l John A. Green, 42d Brigade, 6th Division, National Guard, and composed of the following Regiments: 35th, 46th, 47th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 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